SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION

In May 2000, Cochise College initiated an update to the 1984 Master Plan of the Cochise College Airport. The project, funded in part through a grant from the State of Arizona, Department of Transportation (ADOT), will result in a plan to guide the future development of airport facilities. The airport, although open to the public, is owned and operated by Cochise College for its aviation program.

COCHISE COLLEGE

Cochise College was established in 1961 as the second community college in Arizona. Cochise College is a comprehensive, public community college, fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, serving Cochise County, a rural county in southeastern Arizona.

The mission of the College is to provide students with the knowledge, information, and technical skills essential for a successful life. Two major campuses located in the communities of Douglas and Sierra Vista and thirteen branch locations serve approximately 4,600 students per semester. The airfield and aviation program is located on the original 540-acre Douglas Campus, located in the Sulphur Springs Valley, between the historic towns of Douglas and Bisbee, and about ten miles from the U.S.-Mexican border

THE AVIATION PROGRAM

The Aviation Department of Cochise College was founded over 30 years ago and has been providing students from Cochise County, Arizona, and from around the world with outstanding aviation training. Programs are offered in Professional Flight Technology (PFT), Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT), and Avionics Technology. The PFT and AMT programs have been offered from the inception of the Aviation Program. The Avionics Technology program was added in the early 1990s.

Professional Flight Technology

The PFT program prepares the student for a career as a Professional Pilot. The career opportunities include flight instruction, charter pilot, corporate pilot, mission aviator for mission organizations, or airline pilot, among others. Opportunities also exist in various governmental or business applications where flight is adjunct to other duties of the organizations.

Aviation Maintenance Technology

The AMT program prepares the student for a career in aircraft maintenance and repair as an Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic (A&P). Career opportunities include general aviation aircraft maintenance, airline aircraft maintenance, and various specializations that are needed within the aviation maintenance industry. It is also a good companion program for those seeking corporate pilot careers or careers in mission flying.

Avionics Technology

The Avionics Technology (AVN) program prepares the student for a career working on the advanced radio, electronics, and related aircraft instrumentation systems in the aircraft industry. As the systems used in aircraft become more oriented to the advanced technologies, such as fly-by-wire systems, the demand for avionics technicians continues to increase. When combined with the AMT program, a fully qualified technician is created, able to work on multiple systems.

OBJECTIVES OF THE AIRPORT MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The primary objective of this Airport Master Plan Update is to provide a "roadmap" for future development to accommodate the future needs of the airport. The project will satisfy ADOT needs for a current master plan and will provide guidance on the priority of airport development projects to be submitted to ADOT for funding. The recommended development will be presented for three planning periods: short-term (2001-2005), intermediate-term (2006-2010), and long-term (2011-2020).

The recommended master plan improvements will continue to ensure the reliability and safety of aircraft operations and be compatible with the environment, community development and other transportation modes. The recommended improvements will be technically sound, practical and economically feasible.

The last master plan of the airport was completed in January, 1984. It planned for airport growth to 2003.

Specific issues addressed in the Airport Master Plan Update are:

- Compliance with all FAA design standards for aviation safety.
- Improvements needed to accommodate the projected growth in the College's aviation program.
- Acquisition of property interests in the Runway Protection Zones.
- Planning for an instrument approach procedure.

THE AIRPORT MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

The Cochise College Airport Master Plan study will be accomplished by following some fundamental steps that are briefly stated here as an overview of the work to be accomplished. The initial step involves taking inventories of existing facilities and systems, documenting existing conditions, and coordinating activities with other agencies. Next, air traffic demand forecasts are prepared and then used to identify required facilities. Then, requirements are compared with existing facilities to identify deficiencies. Alternative development concepts that satisfy the deficiencies are developed and evaluated so that a recommended concept can be identified. Once a preferred development concept is identified, the detailed master plan of facility improvements is prepared, including a phased development plan and capital cost estimates.

ORGANIZATION OF THIS REPORT

This report is an interim report documenting progress on the Master Plan study. The report contains drafts of the following sections of the Master Plan report:

- Section 1, Introduction, presents the background and purpose of the master planning project.
- Section 2, Executive Summary, summarizes the important findings and conclusions of the study.
- Section 3, Inventory of Existing Conditions, describes the current airport facilities and airport setting.
- Section 4, Aviation Forecasts, documents the forecasts of aviation activity at the airport.
- Section 5, Facility Requirements, identifies airport facility improvements needed over the next 20 years.
- Section 6, Alternative Concepts, describes the identification and evaluation of alternative concepts that meet the future facility needs.
- Section 7, Airport Plans, describes the proposed Master Plan improvements.
- Section 8, Environmental Evaluation, presents an environmental review of the recommended improvement program.
- Section 9, Capital Improvement Program and Financial Plan, gives the phasing of the planned improvements and identifies funding sources.

A glossary with abbreviations used in this Master Plan has been provided as Appendix A.

A listing of aircraft types and "N" numbers of all based Aircraft is provided as Appendix B.

Minutes of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) are provided as Appendix C.

Comments on the Draft Master Plan Update, with written response, are provided in Appendix D.

Correspondence with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department is provided in Appendix E.

Copies of the Cultural Resource Surveys are provided in Appendix F.

Copies of easements and property documents are provided in Appendix G.

Project Cost Estimates are provided in Appendix H.